

Uhle;—*Lexicon œgyptiaco—latinum*—Oxford 1775 in 4°; le manuscrit de cet ouvrage considérable a été revu par Scholtz, et annoté par Woide qui le fait paraître au frais de l'Université d'Oxford. Chaque mot eopte est suivi de son équivalent en grec et en latin, mais sans autre explication (voy. *Oriental und œleges. Biblioth. de Michaelis*, t. I, p. 202, et suivi, et *Recherches sur l'Égypte* par Quatremère);—un grand nombre d'articles dans les publications périodiques. Parmi les ouvrages inédits de ce savant, il faut citer un Dictionnaire arménien qui lui avait coûté de longues recherches; un *Dictionnaire slavon.* et un *Dictionnaire syriaque.*

M. N. en *Nouv. Biographie générale*, 1866.

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*Note on the History of the East India Company Coinage  
from 1753–1835.—By EDGAR THURSTON.*

When I was engaged in collecting material for my 'History of the Coinage of the Territories of the East India Company in the Indian Peninsula, and Catalogue of the coins in the Madras Museum,'\* the records of the Madras Mint were placed at my disposal by the Madras Government, and I expressed a hope that some one would eventually explore the archives of the Calcutta and Bombay Mints with a view to clearing up many obscure points in the history of the coinage of the Company, which constitutes a complicated branch of modern numismatics.

My head-quarters having, by the fortune of service, been temporarily transferred from Madras to Calcutta, the opportunity has been taken advantage of to examine the records of the Calcutta Mint; and facilities for carrying out the research in my spare moments were courteously given to me by Colonel Baird, F. R. S., Master of the Mint, to whom I have to express my great indebtedness.

The Calcutta Mint Committee Proceedings which are preserved in the Calcutta Mint, commence with the year 1792 (more than thirty years after the establishment of the Calcutta Mint), and are, with very few exceptions, continuous to 1835, where my investigations ceased, as the history of the Company's coinage after that year, in which a general British currency was established, is no longer veiled in doubt and obscurity.

Of the Calcutta Mint Records from the establishment of the Mint in 1760 to 1792, I have been unable to find any trace, and this is the more to be regretted, since the history of the coinage during this

\* Madras Government Press, 1890.

period is beset with difficulties, the problem being, as pointed out by Dr. Stanley Lane-Poole\* to determine where the native coinage ends and the Company's begins.

1753. In a despatch to the Court of Directors dated 12th February, 1753, it is mentioned that "the utmost

**Calcutta.** secrecy was necessary with reference to the establishment of a mint at Calcutta, as any attempt to effect an arrangement with the Nawáb would be immediately upset by Juggut Sing." A vakíl was entrusted and consulted, who said that his master, Hackem Beg, had a son in great power at Delhi, who might be able to get a phirmaund from the king; but that this would be attended at least with the expense of 100,000 rupees, and that, on the arrival of the phirmaund at Cossimbazar, it would cost another 100,000 rupees to the mutsuddys and diwáns of the Nawáb to put the phirmaund in force.

1759-60. The establishment of a mint at Calcutta finally took place in 1759 or 1760, and the following is a translation of the parwána: "To the noblest of merchants, the English Company, be the royal favour. In Calcutta a mint is established. You shall coin gold and silver of equal value and fineness with the ashrafees and rupees of Murshidábád in the name of Calcutta. In the suburbs of Bangala, Bihár, and Orissa, they shall be current, and no person shall demand or insist upon a discount upon them. Dated the 11th of the moon Zihada in the 4th year."

1792. In 1792 a Committee was constituted in Calcutta by order of the Governor-General, Earl Cornwallis, for

**Bengal.** superintending the mints and enquiring into the general state of the coinage in Bengal, Bihár, and Orissa. Among the instructions given to the Committee were:—

1. To enquire particularly into the cause of the little progress which had been made towards the establishment of the general currency of the sikka rupees.

2. To ascertain the causes of the batta or discount that had frequently been levied on the exchange of a gold mohar for silver.

3. To report whether it would be advisable to declare the gold mohars, and the multiples thereof, legal tender of payment in the three provinces in all transactions, public and private, at the value at which they were then received and paid at the general treasury and in all private transactions.

\* Catalogue of coins of the Moghul Emperors, 1892.

4. To enquire into the state of the copper coinage.

5. To state their sentiments on the practicability and expediency of coining the gold mohars, rupees and pice, or either of those coins, with machinery of similar construction to that in use in the mints in Europe.

On May 14th, 1792, the Mint Master informed the Committee that he had received orders from the Governor-General to establish mints at Patna and Murshidábád, to facilitate the conversion of the various species of silver coins current in the several districts into sikka rupees.

A new gold mohar and sikka rupee of the current coinage were laid before the Committee, who were of opinion that the size, shape, and impression of the mohar were perfect, and equal, if not superior, to the newest English guinea, or any of the gold coins in Europe, the die being precisely the same size as the coin, which consequently bore the whole legend, the letters being cut flat, and the coin being difficult to drill without defacing it, owing to its being milled and of proper thickness. With respect to the rupee, the Committee considered that it was very defective both with regard to its size, thickness, and impression, which was struck with a die of twice the circumference of the coin, so that only a part of the impression appeared on the coin. The letters were considered to be too prominent, and liable to injury from common wear and filing, and the thickness of the coin and absence of milling rendered it liable to be easily filed, bored, and defaced. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the rupee should be coined in every respect in the same manner as the gold mohar.

In the Calcutta Mint Committee's Proceedings, 1792, the following

**Benares.** historical sketch of the Benares mint (concerning which great confusion exists) by Mr.

Barlow, who had been deputed in 1787 to enquire into the trade and coinage of Benares, is placed on record.

A mint was first established at Benares in the 15th year of the reign of Muhammad Sháh (1734). The assay of the rupee was fixed at 22 chauwals, but, by the connivance of the Superintendents of the mint, it was debased to 32 chauwals at different periods before the 30th and last year of the reign.

During the first three years of the reign of Ahmad Sháh (1748–50) the mint was under the charge of Rájá Balwant Singh, who increased the duties on the coinage by attaching the fees of the officers of the mint, and establishing new ones to the same amount. In the 1st year the assay was kept up to 22 chauwals, but in the 2nd and 3rd years the Rájá farmed the mint to one Nandrám who, to increase his

receipts, debased the coin to 24 and 32 chauwals. The mint records were burnt by Balwant Singh, and no records were kept in the mint until the 17th year of the reign of Sháh 'Alam (1776). The farmers carried away their books in order to conceal the profits they reaped from debasing the coins. The system of farming out the mints, first adopted by Ratan Chand, Diwán to Farrukhsiyar, at length introduced the custom of changing the value of the rupee every year. Those who had payments to make were consequently obliged to carry their old rupees to the mint to have them re-coined into sikkas, the name given to the rupees of the current year. Previous to the 10th year of the reign of Sháh 'Alam (1769), the new coined sikka rupee, after circulating twelve months, fell 3 per cent., and at the expiration of two years 2 per cent. more, at which value it continued under the denomination 'sanwát.' On the 6th August, 1771, this usage was abolished by the British Government, who resolved that the sikkas coined in the 10th year of the reign should be considered as sanwáts, and that those coined in the 11th and all subsequent years should pass in payment at the same value as the sikkas of the current year.

From the beginning of the 4th to the end of the 6th and last year (1754) of Ahmad Sháh the mint was under the charge of Aghá Asad Beg, Kiladár or Governor of the Fort of Chunár. The assay of the rupees was from 26 to 32 chauwals.

At the commencement of the reign of 'Alamgr II (1754) the mint fell to the Vizier Shujá'ud-daulah. During the 1st and 2nd years the assay of the rupees was from 26 to 28 chauwals. In the 3rd year Shujá'ud-daulah made over the mint to his brother-in-law, Mirza 'Alí Khán, who farmed it to Subháv Chand. The assay of the rupees was from 24 to 32 chauwals. In the 4th year the mint was farmed to the agent of an eminent Benares banker, and the rupees were debased to 64 chauwals and, for the first time, half a ratí in weight. Rájá Balwant Singh refused to receive them into his treasury. In the 5th year the rupees were raised to their proper weight of 9 máshás, 7 ratís (or 632 chauwals), but continued at the debased standard of 40 and 48 chauwals. In the 6th and last year of the reign the rupees were debased to 100 chauwals assay (*i. e.*  $\frac{535}{630}$  silver and  $\frac{95}{630}$  alloy) and half a ratí in weight.

In the 1st year of the reign of Sháh 'Alam, Shujá'ud-daulah appointed a person on his own part to superintend the coinage, and the rupee was restored to its former weight, (9m. 7r.) and to 26 chauwals assay. During the 2nd to 8th years the assay remained at 40 chauwals. In the latter year (1767) Shujá'ud-daulah, at the recommendation of Lord Clive, resolved to reform the coin. The Benáres mint was, ac-

cordingly, committed to the care of Mirzá Hasan, who engaged to restore the rupees to their proper weight and standard. A Delhi rupee of the 18th year of Muhammad Sháh was sent as a sample for the new coinage. This rupee was 22 chauwals fine, but, being worn, had lost 2 chauwals in weight. The new rupees were, in consequence, 2 chauwals deficient, and from that time the Benares rupees continued at 9m. 6r. 6 ch., being 2 chauwals less than the original weight of 9m. 7r. In the 9th year the mint was farmed to Monsieur Gentille, the French Agent at Shujá'ud-daulah's court, and the same assay (22 chauwals) was continued until the 15th year (1774). A considerable portion of the rupees issued in the 16th year contained only  $5\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of silver, to  $10\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of copper.

In the 17th year of the reign of Sháh 'Alam (1776) the mint was transferred by the Company to Chait Singh, who engaged to coin rupees of 9m. 9r. 6 ch., weight and 18 chauwals fine, and to continue the die of the 17th san, in order to put an end to the confusion in the currency occasioned by the constant alteration of the value of the coin. "All rupees, therefore," the Records state, "coined in the Benares mint since the 17th year of the present reign, ought to be of the same weight and standard, and to pass current as sikkas\* of the present year. The rupees current in the district of Beuares may, therefore, be classed as sanwát and sikka, the former coined under the Mughal Princes, and the latter since the 17th year of the reign of Sháh 'Alam, when the mint was ceded to the Company by the Vizier, and by them transferred to Chait Singh."

The following table gives information as to the assays, weights, and names of the rupees coined at the Benares mint from its establishment to 1782:—

\* Previous to the time of Farrukhsiyar all rupees coined under the reigning king were considered as sikkas, and passed at their original value during his life. At the accession of a new king, the rupees of the former reign were subject to a batta, and were not received into the royal treasury.

| REIGN.                      | ASSAY. | BENARES WEIGHT. |    | CALCUTTA WEIGHT. |    |    | REMARKS. |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------|----|------------------|----|----|----------|
|                             |        | M.              | R. | Ch.              | M. | R. |          |
| J. I. MUHAMMAD SHÁH.        | }      | 22              | 7  | ..               | 10 | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 32              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | ..              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 22              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
| AHMAD SHÁH.                 | }      | ..              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 24              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 32              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 32              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
| 'ĀLAMĠR II.                 | }      | 26              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 24              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 32              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
| 1st and 2nd years           | }      | 64              | 9  | 6                | 9  | 7  | 4        |
|                             |        | 40              | 9  | 7                | 9  | 10 | ..       |
|                             |        | 48              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 64              | 9  | 6                | 4  | 9  | 4        |
| SHÁH 'ĀLAM.                 | }      | 100             | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 26              | 9  | 7                | 10 | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 40              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 22              | 9  | 6                | 9  | 7  | 6        |
| 2nd to 7th years            | }      | 26              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
| 8th " 10th " 11th year      | }      | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
| 12th " 13th to 14th years   | }      | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 28              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | 18              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
| 15th " 16th " 17th " 28th " | }      | ..              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | ..              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | ..              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |
|                             |        | ..              | .. | ..               | .. | .. | ..       |

The rupees of the 4th to 6th years of 'Ālamġr II were called Trisúlis from having the trisúil or Hindú trident stamped upon them.

The rupees of the 1st to 7th years were called Thmuká Goharsháhís; thmuká signifying small, and Gohar Sháh being the name of Sháh 'Ālam previous to his accession to the throne.  
Called Chanrá or broad Goharsháhís\* to distinguish them from the Thmuká or small ones, which Shujá'ud-daulah, at the desire of Lord Clive, ordered to be discontinued.

Called Jhardár from a mark or branch & marked on the coin.  
Sikka rupees of the same weight and fineness, and which ought to pass current at the same value. They are distinguished also by the appellation of machhlidár, from the head of a fish being stamped upon them.

\* Regulation V, 1821, refers to "Ghushsháhee or Tirsooleé rupees."

The fact is incidentally mentioned that, when the Sháhzádá (Sháh 'Álam) invaded Bihár, the mint accompanied him, and a large quantity of Benares rupees were melted down and coined into 'rikabees' (*rikáb*, a stirrup) which were 1r. 2ch. deficient in weight, and of 64 chauwals assay, but were made to pass in the camp as sikkas of the established weight and fineness. It is also noted that two lacs of rupees were annually melted down for the manufacture of the laces and rich stuffs for which Benares was celebrated.

From Mr. Barlow's sketch the following account of the coinage of copper has been derived.

The pice current in the city and district of Benares previous to the establishment of the mint, were mostly coined at Gorakhpur in Oudh from copper brought from the northern hills. The first coinage of pice at Benares was in the 23rd year of the reign of Muhammad Sháh (1742), when 100 maunds weight were struck with the die of the sikka rupee. From that period till the 4th year of the reign of Sháh 'Álam (1762), no pice were coined in the Benares mint. In the 5th year the farmer of the mint purchased some English copper, and coined it into pice of 10 máshás stamped with the die of Gorakhpur. The number exchanged for a rupee was 45 to 48. The coinage of pice was again discontinued until the 17th year (1776), when it was re-established by permission of Rájá Chait Singh. The new pice were 10m. 3r. in weight, and passed current at about 50 or 51 to the rupee. In the following year a quantity of copper was brought to Benares from Calcutta, and the coining of pice and exclusive privilege of buying and selling copper in Benares granted to one Káshmirú Mall for Rs. 5,000. The weight of the coins continued to be 10m. 3r. and they passed in the bazár at about 52 or 53 per rupee. In the 19th and 20th years the coinage was declared free, and those who brought copper received pice in return, after paying duties. In the 21st year (1779) a considerable revolution took place in the copper coinage. The Nawáb Vizier issued orders to the officers of the Alláhábád mint to reduce the weight of the pice to 9m. 2r. The merchants, finding that their maund of copper yielded 3,650 pice at Alláhábád and only 3,250 at Benares, carried all their copper to the former place. The coinage of pice was, consequently, at a stand still, only 29 maunds being coined during the year. Large quantities of the new Alláhábád pice were brought by merchants to Benares. Rájá Chait Singh at first refused to authorise their currency, but at length gave his consent, and the Alláhábád pice of 9m. 3r. were declared current, and ordered to be received in payment in common with the old pice of 10m. 3r. The result was that the bankers contrived to lower the value of the pice altogether, and were

assisted in so doing by large importations from Alláhábád. In the 22nd year Rájá Chait Singh ordered piee to be coined of the same size and weight as the Alláhábád piee, and this contributed greatly to overstocking the circulation. In the 23rd and 24th years, after the expulsion of Chait Singh, the same weight (9m. 2r.) was continued, and the price of piee continued to fall until the famine in the next year, when they sold at thirteen for a rupee. In the 27th year the Resident at Benares ordered that no piee should be issued from the mint under 10m. 3r. and that Gorakhpur piee, weighing 10m. to 10m. 3r. and Benares piee, weighing 10m. 3r. should pass at the same value. The price immediately rose to 58 per rupee. In the 28th year (1787), when it was supposed that sufficient new piee had been coined for the city of Benares, the Gorakhpur piee were forbidden, and only the new Benares piee stamped with a trisúl (trident), and weighing from 10m. to 10m. 3r. and the Gorakhpur piee, re-stamped and not under 10m. in weight, were declared current.

As regards the gold coinage at the Benares mint, it is stated that the gold was assayed there by touch on a species of the salgrám\* stone so celebrated in the *śástras* of the Hindus. Upon comparing the Calcutta with the Benares gold mohars, it was found (1787) that the former was about Rs. 2-1-6 better than the latter, *i. e.*, R. 1-14-9 in weight and As 2-9 in assay. It was suggested, therefore, that the Benares mohar should be raised to the same weight and standard as the Calcutta mohar.

1792. On June 26, 1792, the following regulations were submitted, among others, for the consideration of the

Dacca, Patna, Murshidábád. Governor General:—

I. That the rupees coined throughout Bengal, Bihár,† and the district of Benares, be of the same weight, standard, size and impression (the rupee of the 19th san then coined at Calcutta).

II. That the mints of Dacca, Patna and Murshidábád be re-established.

III. That one species of copper coin be declared current throughout the Company's dominions.

In August, 1792, it was notified that directions had already been given by the Governor General for the re-establishment of the mints at Dacca, Patna, and Murshidábád; and in the same month, the follow-

\* *Sálagráma* stones are fossil ammonites, which, as worshipped by the Hindus, are commonly perforated by holes believed to have been made by Vishnu.

† I have, for convenience, adopted a uniform spelling of the names, of places, *e. g.*, Bihár and Murshidábád instead of Behar and Moorsshedabad.



ing propositions were, among others, made by the Calcutta mint Committee, with a view to drawing the old and light coins into the mints, and establishing the general currency of the sikka rupee:—

I. That after April 10th, 1794, only the san 19 sikka rupees be received at the public treasuries, or issued therefrom;

II. That public notice be given that Government, with a view to enabling individuals to get their old coin or bullion converted into sikka rupees without delay, have established mints at Dacca, Patna and Murshidábád in addition to the mint at Calcutta;

III. That the rupees coined at Dacca, Patna and Murshidábád, be made precisely of the same shape, weight and standard as the 19 san sikka rupees coined at Calcutta, in order that the rupees struck at the several mints might not be recognisable from each other, and might be received and paid indiscriminately;

IV. That the dies be made of the same size as the coin, and that the coins be milled;

V. That the hijrah year be omitted, as the insertion of it, by showing the year in which the rupees were struck, would defeat the object of Government in continuing the 19th san upon the coins.

The earliest weekly account of the new Dacca mint which I have been able to find, is dated 11th August, 1792, on which day the Assay Master also submitted to the Calcutta Mint Committee the accounts of the preceding three months, and promised in future to forward a weekly account.

On 23rd October, 1792, the Assay Master of the Murshidábád mint reported that he was erecting workshops, etc., at the Dutch Factory, and hoped to begin coining by the end of the following week. The opening of the mint was announced to the Governor General in a letter dated December, 1792.

1793. On 24th February, 1793, the Assay Master of the Patna mint announced to the Calcutta Mint Committee that everything would be ready by the end of the month for the coining of five lacs monthly.

In 1793 a regulation\* was passed, by which the gold and silver coin in Bengal, Bihár, and Orissa was reformed, and the currency of any gold or silver coin in these provinces, but the 19th san gold mohar and 19th san sikka rupee, and their respective divisions into halves and quarters, was prohibited.

\* See Prinsep, *Indian Antiquities*, and Thurston, *History of the Coinage of the East India Company*.

1795. In a minute dated 2nd October, 1795, the defective state of the copper coinage in Bengal was dealt with, and the principles upon which the copper currency was regulated under Native administration, and the rules that had been prescribed regarding it by the British Government were noted. Bengal. “Under the Mogul administration,” the minute states, “the silver coin was the only measure of value and legal tender of payments. Gold mohurs and pieo were struck at the mints for the convenience of individuals, who carried gold or copper to be converted into those coins. But the Government never fixed the number of pice which should be equivalent to a rupee, any more than the number of rupees which should pass in exchange for a gold mohur. From the year 1772, when the mints at Dacca, Patna, and Murshidábád were withdrawn, no pice were coined in the Provinces until 1783, when a contract was concluded with Mr. Prinsep for coining pice on account of the Government. These pice were of four descriptions, viz., whole or pucka, weighing 20 annas, half pice, quarters and eighths. These pice were issued by the Government at the rate of 32 pucka pice, 64 half, 128 quarter pice, and 256 eighth pice for the sikka rupee.”

At a council, over which Sir John Shore, Governor General, presided, held on 2nd October, 1795, it was considered expedient that there should only be two descriptions of copper coin, a whole and half pice, to pass at the value of a quarter and an eighth of an anna respectively. It was, accordingly, resolved that a Regulation should be framed, and published for the establishment of a new copper coinage\* for Bengal Bihár, and Orissa. Among the provisions of this Regulation were:—

I. That people in all parts of the country be apprised of the value at which the coin was issued by Government, and to be received and paid by the public and individuals;

II. That the value be inscribed on one surface in Persian, Bangálí and Nágarí—the characters used in business in the Provinces;

III. That the coin be declared legal tender of payment for fractions of half a rupee;

IV. That the coin be struck at the Calcutta mint, and not at the three City mints.

The Governor General approved of samples of the new pice and half pice in November, 1795, and orders were issued to coin an equal value of the two coins, until it was ascertained which was likely to be in the greatest demand. A week later, however, the Governor General, understanding that the relative values of the whole and half pice would

\* The existing piece was known as the Calcutta, or Prinsep's pice.

be best understood by the Natives, especially the lower orders, by substituting “ek pái sikká” and “ádhá pái sikká” for “paun áná and .....(the inscriptions originally ordered) resolved that instructions for altering the inscriptions be issued to the Mint Master.

Towards the end of 1795 trouble was caused by the debased quality of the gold mohars issued from the Dacca, Patna, and Murshidábád mints, and by the rupees issued from the Patna and Murshidábád mints being below sikka standard. It was, after enquiry into the matter, resolved that the coinage of gold at the Patna mint should be for the time discontinued, and that, for the present, no more coins should be struck at the Murshidábád mint. In the course of the correspondence relating to the debased coinage, reference is made to the distinguishing marks of the three mints, but, for precaution's sake, the nature of these private marks (recognisable with a lens) is not mentioned.

1796. In February, 1796, it was resolved that all the gold bullion sent to the Calcutta mint should, until further orders, be coined into quarter mohars, inasmuch as these coins were in much greater request among the lower orders than the gold coins of higher value.

In April 1796, in consequence of a report from the Mint Master, that considerable loss would be sustained annually if Government adhered to their original intention of coining the whole pice at 16 annas and the half pice at 8 annas sikka weight, Government was reduced to the alternative of relinquishing the establishment of the new copper coinage altogether, or reducing its value. It was accordingly resolved that the coining of whole pice of 12 annas and half pice of 6 annas sikka weight, be commenced immediately. The Mint Master, however, reported that dies could not be made for pice of smaller diameter than those then in use, as there would not be a sufficient body of metal to yield a bold impression. It was thereupon ordered that, in the event of its appearing impracticable to insert the whole of the inscription, the Persian portion should be omitted instead of the Nágari as suggested by the Mint.

1797. The coinage of money at the Dacca and Patna mints ceased on 31st January 1797, and December 31st 1796, respectively. The date of the closing of the Murshidábád mint I have not been able to find, but the records of 1799 make reference to “assaying materials which may be deposited in the late mint at that station, and to the best means of disposing of the building which was formerly used for a mint at Murshidábád.”

1800. In a letter dated 12th December, 1800, on the subject of the irregularities at the Benares mint, the **Benares.** Collector of that city suggested the advisability of a European being placed in charge of the mint, and of having rupees coined there of the same standard as the Bihâr sikka rupees.

1801. In April 1801, a Committee was appointed to enquire into the state of the Benares mint, and report on the expediency of continuing it. From the Committee's report it appears that, since the abolition of the Residency, the mint had been left without the superintendence of a European official, and that the same species of gold, silver, and copper coins continued to be struck as at the time when Mr. Barlow reported on the mint (p. 54). In recommending a continuation of the mint, the Committee stated that "a connexion has always subsisted between the mint and the manufacturers of gold and silver wire and thread, and the weavers of rich cloths and embroideries made at Benares, on which the prosperity of the trade in these articles appears so much to depend that, in the event of the abolition of the mint, the manufacturers might require some similar establishment to supply its place." In reviewing the report of the Committee, the Governor-General did not think it advisable either to abolish the mint, or to alter the mode in which the coinage had been hitherto conducted, but ordered that the Agent of the Governor-General, the Magistrate of the city, and the Collector of the Province of Benares be constituted a permanent Committee for the superintendence and control of the mint.

1802. In 1802 letters were received from Madras and Bombay, from which it appeared very necessary that a **Bombay, Madras.** general reform of their coinage should be carried out, and greater uniformity introduced, so as to relieve the public and individuals from the inconvenience arising from so great a variety of coins, and from so frequent fluctuations in their values. The following plan of a new coinage was submitted by the Calcutta Mint:—

I. That the gold and silver coins of Madras, Bombay, and the Ceded Districts, be of the same standard and weight;

II. That the gold mohar (gold rupee) weigh 180 grains troy, and contain 168 grains of gold and 12 grains of alloy;

III. That the silver rupee weigh 186 grains troy, and contain 173 grains of silver and 13 grains of alloy;

IV. That fourteen rupees be equal to, and pass for the gold mohur.

V. That the mohar and rupee of Bombay be divided into halves, quarters, and eighths (which last could be milled and stamped without trouble);

VI. That the Madras quarter mohar pass for 42 silver fánams, and the Madras rupee for 12 fánams.

In this proposed coinage the quarter gold mohar was of the same intrinsic value as the Madras star pagoda, but the rupee was nearly 4 per cent. better than the Madras Arkát rupee. The proposed new rupee was more than 5 per cent. better than the Bombay rupee, which had been adopted from the Surat Mint.

In a letter dated July, 1803, stating that the Governor-General had it in contemplation to establish a coinage of the same weight and standard throughout the provinces ceded to the Company by the Nawáb Vizier, it was announced that a Committee had been appointed for the superintendence of the mints established at Barailí and Alláhábád, which were to report to Government their suggestions for the improvement of the coinage in the ceded provinces. I have not been able to ascertain how long the coinage of the Alláhábád mint continued, but reference is made in December, 1805, to "base coin issued from the mint at Alláhábád a short time previously to the coinage at that place."

1803. In May, 1803, the Collector of Gorakhpur stated that "it is the opinion of some sensible shroffs that, in the course of the ensuing year, it may be advisable to establish a mint at the town of Gorakhpur. In this case it is my opinion that the Lucknow sikka rupee of the 28th san should be gradually introduced as the standard currency of Gorakhpur. On the other hand, the shroffs would greatly prefer the Gorakhpur rupee because of the advantages always derived from the fluctuation of batta on rupees of different standards."

**Farrukhábád.** By Regulation XLV, 1803, it was enacted that:—

(Sect. II.) A silver coin, to be denominated the Lucknow sikka rupee of the 45th san, struck in the mint of Farrukhábád, corresponding in weight and standard with the sikka rupee at present struck at Lucknow, in the dominions of the Nawáb Vizier, and thence denominated the Lucknow rupee, is hereby declared to be the established and legal silver coin in the provinces ceded by the Nawáb Vizier to the English East India Company.

(Sect. IV.) A mint shall be established at, or in the immediate vicinity of Farrukhábád, in which Lucknow rupees of the 45th san, and of the prescribed weight and standard, and half and quarter rupees of the same standard and proportionate weight, will be coined.

(Sect. V.) The Lucknow 45th san sikka rupee, as established by this regulation, shall be of the same size and form as the 19th san

sikka rupee struck in the mint at Calcutta, and shall bear the following impression:—

| <i>Obverse.</i>                                                                   | <i>Reverse.</i>                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>الملك حامي دين محمد<br/>سايه فضل شاه عالم بادشاهه<br/>سکه زد بر هفت کشور *</p> | <p>میدیت مانوس<br/>سنه ۱۲۴۵ جلوس<br/>ضرب فرخ آباد</p> |

(Sect. VI.) The half and quarter rupee shall be proportionately less than the rupee, and bear the same impression as the rupee.

(Sect. XII.) The Mint Master at Calcutta shall cause a private mark to be put on all dies which may be prepared for the mint at Farrukhábád, but in such a manner as not to be distinguished by the naked eye, or by persons unacquainted with it.

1804. In 1804 the Commissioner of Cuttack pointed out that great inconvenience was experienced in the Province of Cuttack from the want of a current coin of small value, especially for the use of the troops, and pilgrims resorting to the temple of Jagannáth, and proposed that the coin should bear on one face the figure of Jagannáth, and on the other the value of the coin in Persian and Uriya, and the date. This coin was never struck.

In this year the Assay Master of the Benares mint expressed a wish that “a coining, milling, and laminating machine may be sent up to Benares to enable me to ascertain by experiments what advantage there might be in introducing the mode at present used in Calcutta, or in continuing the native method of coining with the hammer only, though the whole figure of the die is not impressed on the rupees that are made in any of the native mints. The Riwá rupees, though of inferior value, have to an inexperienced person very much the aspect of Benares rupees, and are sometimes passed as such.”

The Mint Committees in the Ceded Provinces (Barailí and Alláhábád) were called on, in 1804, to report their views as to the introduction of a new copper coinage. The Alláhábád Committee recommended that a new copper coinage should be issued, bearing the same impression as the Lucknow rupees struck at Alláhábád. “There are,” the Committee stated, “two kinds of copper coinage in currency.

\* The above is quoted from the text of the Regulation. Mr. Rodgers (J. A. S. B., Vol. LVII, Part I for 1888) gives a slightly different version. Ed.

The average exchange of the first is two to an anna, and of the second four to an anna. We recommend that, for the present, the new coinage be limited to the first sort."

In their report the Barailí Committee gave the following details concerning the history of the copper coinage at that mint. "At Barailí no copper coinage

#### Barailí.

was known until about sixteen years ago, when it was introduced by Mahdí 'Alí Khán, the ámil, who coined piece called shamsher sháhí from their having the figure of a sword stamped upon them. They were generally coined out of old piece or copper utensils. This coinage continued two years, after which the same ámil substituted another species of piece called maehhlídárs from their having the figure of a fish stamped upon them. A few years after an improved coinage was introduced by the then ámil of Rohilkhand, whose piece were termed kaṭár from their being stamped with a dagger. After that, when Mahdí 'Alí Khán became ámil for the second time in 1205 (1790), though the name and appearance remained the same, the weight was reduced from 18 10 17 and even 16 máshás. In this diminished state the coinage of the kaṭár sháhís continued until the cession of the provinces to the Company in November, 1801. They are still current in the southern and eastern parts of Rohilkhand, but never obtained circulation equal to that of the najíb khánís, which are current at Rámpur."

The opinion expressed by the Committee was that there were no special circumstances of a local nature which urgently demanded the introduction of a copper coinage, but that it appeared advisable, on general principles, to introduce a sort of piece which would be intrinsically valuable from its purity, and difficult of imitation, and which should bear the same proportion to the local silver currency which the piece in the Lower Provinces bore to the Calcutta sikka rupees.

It appears from a report by Mr. Seton that the system of farming the Barailí mint was abolished in 1802. No alteration was introduced into the standard of the rupee, except that, to mark the period at which the change of system took place, the Persian letter چ (the first letter of the late Súbah Hussain 'Alí Khán) was discontinued, and و (W) substituted in compliment to the Lieutenant-Governor.

1805. In February 1805, the authorities of the Farrukhábád mint recommended the coinage of milled in place

#### Farrukhábád.

of hammered money as a measure tending to correct several existing abuses and imperfections. In July a letter from Government stated that "The Governor General in Council has determined on the immediate introduction of a new silver coin into

the provinces ceded by the Nawáb Vizier to the English East India Company, and into the conquered Provinces of the Nawáb and on the right bank of the river Jumna, including the Zillah of Bundelkhand, to be denominated the Lucknow sikka rupee of the 45th san, struck at Farrukhábád, corresponding in weight and standard with the sikka rupee at present struck at Lucknow in the dominions of the Nawáb Vizier; and has it in contemplation to establish a new copper coin in the provinces above-mentioned, of an uniform weight, to consist of pure copper."

1806. In 1806 the Mint Master at Benares, in a report on the copper currency of the Benares Province, stated that "there is no regulation for the weight, size, or impression of pice that can be the least check on any person making them privately without fear of detection. A great part of the pice now in circulation have been made in Oudh, the Ríwá Rájá's country, and other places, and smuggled into circulation." He, accordingly, suggested for the consideration of Government a new copper coinage (of which specimens were forwarded) to consist of:—

| VALUE.           | Number to the rupee. | Weight: Grains troy. | Diameter, Inches. |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Double Pice. ... | 32                   | 240                  | $1\frac{1}{4}$    |
| Single ,, ...    | 64                   | 120                  | 1                 |
| Half ,, ...      | 128                  | 60                   | $\frac{3}{4}$     |
| Quarter ,, ...   | 256                  | 30                   | $\frac{5}{16}$    |

"If," the Mint Master wrote, "the machinery of the Calcutta mint could be used in laminating the derabs, it would greatly reduce the expense of making the pice, but I would by no means advise the impression being stamped in Calcutta, as the prejudices of the Natives in Benares should be conceded to."

In a letter dated 10th December, 1806, the Governor General, in forwarding a letter from the Court of Directors concerning a plan for one general coinage for the Company's possession, expressed his opinion that the coins should be struck in the name of the king of Delhi, and not of the Company with their arms, as proposed by the Court. In the letter referred to, of which the following is a *précis*, the Court of Directors wrote as

#### General.



follows:—"We think the Earl of Liverpool\* has established the principle that "the money or coin which is to be the principal measure of property, ought to be of one metal only." In applying the argument to a coin for general use in India, there cannot be any doubt, in our opinion, that such coinage must be of silver. The standard weight of the silver coins issued from the mints of our several Presidencies we find to be as follows:—

|                       |           |     |                     |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----|---------------------|
| Calcutta sikka rupee. | Troy grs. | ... | 179 $\frac{2}{3}$ . |
| Madras Arcot          | " " "     | ... | 176 $\frac{2}{3}$ . |
| Bombay                | " " "     | ... | 179.                |

"We think it would answer a good purpose to fix the gross weight in whole numbers, and should prefer the weight of 180 grs. troy. The British standard for gold coin is  $\frac{1}{2}$  alloy and  $\frac{1}{2}$  fine. There is no doubt that  $\frac{1}{2}$  alloy of copper would be equally proper for silver coin, and we are of opinion that this proportion should be adopted, in which case the new rupees would have 165 grains of fine silver and 15 grains of alloy. Should the new rupee be ultimately adopted, there may be coined also:—

|                               |     |     |                    |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Half rupee weighing troy grs. | ... | ... | 90.                |
| Quarter " " " "               | ... | ... | 45.                |
| Anna " " " "                  | ... | ... | 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ . |

"A copper coinage should also be determined on for general circulation, and it is our opinion that it should consist of 6 pice or half anna, 3 pice or quarter anna, and 1 pice pieces.

"We are desirous of establishing a gold coin on a principle fitted for general use. This coin should, in our opinion, be called a gold rupee, and be made of the same standard as the silver rupee, *viz.*, 180 grains gross weight and 165 grains fine, and be divided into halves and quarters. The quarter gold rupee appears well fitted to supply the place of the Madras star pagoda in the payment of the Madras army.

"We have thought the adoption of a new coinage for British India a fit opportunity for giving a new impression to our currency, and the most appropriate, in our esteem, is the Company's arms with an inscription "English East India Company," as also the denomination and value of the coin with the year of coinage, and for the reverse a Persian inscription expressing the English one on the obverse with the date of coinage and value and denomination of the coin. If the smaller gold and silver coins (perhaps all below the half rupee) do not present surface sufficient for a clear impression, it would be proper to substitute for the Company's arms the Company's crest, the inscriptions to remain alike in all."

\* Letter to the King on the coins of the realm.

1807. A letter from the Mint Master at Farrukhábád dated 24th October, 1807, asks for new milling dies for Farrukhábád. rupees, and states that the mint had not yet been furnished with dies for the half and quarter rupees, the expediency of introducing which had been suggested by the Mint Committee.

In this year, and early in 1808, proclamations were issued by the Government of Madras respecting a new coinage for the Madras Presidency, of which the following is a *résumé*.

A SILVER COINAGE.

“All the silver coins of the Presidency coined at the Madras mint shall be coined direct from dollars when imported, and be of dollar fineness.

“The double rupee will contain double the quantity, the half rupee half the quantity, and the quarter rupee a quarter of the pure silver which the rupee contains.

“There are also coined and issued the following small coins:—  
Five fanams, on which is inscribed their denomination in English, Persian, Gentoo (Telugu), and Malabar (Malayálam).

|        |   |   |   |   |   |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Three* | ” | ” | ” | ” | ” |
| Two    | ” | ” | ” | ” | ” |
| Single | ” | ” | ” | ” | ” |

B. COPPER COINAGE.

“The Governor General in Council has been pleased to issue a new coinage of the following numbers, values, etc.

|              |     |     |               |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| Double Dubs. | ... | 24  | to the rupee. |
| Single       | ”   | 48  | ” ” ”         |
| Half         | ”   | 96  | ” ” ”         |
| Quarter      | ”   | 192 | ” ” ”         |

“In case the above coins are issued at the Presidency, etc., they are to measure with the star pagodas:—

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 84 double dubs | to one pagoda. |
| 168 single     | ” ” ” ”        |
| 336 half       | ” ” ” ”        |
| 672 quarter    | ” ” ” ”        |

“There are also issued the following coins with their denomination inscribed on them in English, Persian, Gentoo, and Malabar:—40 cash, 20 cash, 10 cash, 5 cash.”

\* The five fánam pieces are now very scarce. Double and single fánams are fairly common. The three fánam pieces I have never seen, and have met with no other reference to them. I am inclined to think that the mention of them is a mistake.

In this Proclamation, which is dated 22nd August, 1807, it is stated that “the Governor in Council has also deemed it expedient to issue a silver coinage of half and quarter pagodas of dollar fineness.”

This Proclamation was repeated on 28th November, 1807, with the addition of a 2½ cash piece as being “also issued.”

### C. GOLD COINAGE.

“The Governor in Council, having deemed it necessary to establish a new gold currency, has resolved to coin a gold pagoda of 22 carats fine, and a double pagoda of the same fineness, with English, Persian, Gentoo, and Malabar inscriptions.”

In August, 1807, the mint master at Benares received a letter from Calcutta respecting a new copper coinage for the province of Benares, which was to be prepared in the Calcutta mint. This coinage should, it was thought, consist of:—

|             |     |     | Number to a | Calcutta sikka |
|-------------|-----|-----|-------------|----------------|
|             |     |     | rupee.      | weight.        |
| Double pice | ... | ... | ... 32      | 1-1-6          |
| Single „    | ... | ... | ... 64      | 0-8-9          |
| Half „      | ... | ... | ... 128     | 0-4-4½         |

1809. By Regulation X, 1809, the Calcutta mint was directed to coin pice for the province of Benares, valued at 64 per rupee.

#### Benares.

1810. In a letter dated 11th September, 1810, reference is made to “London made copper coins at Fort St.

#### Madras.

George, of which there is stated to be 80,000 pagodas in store, and which cannot be brought into circulation at that Presidency. We are of opinion that the 20 cash pieces might be circulated here at the value of one and a half of the Bengal pice, and that, in the present scarcity of copper, it would be advisable to send the whole of them to Bengal.

1811. A letter dated 16th September, 1811, states that “Government having been pleased to determine that

#### Benares.

no change shall be made in the local currency of the province of Benares, but that it shall be recognised as the legal currency of that portion of the Company’s territories, we entirely concur as to the expediency of placing the mint of that province under the immediate control of the Supreme Government, and of assimilating it in every respect to the mints of Calcutta and Farrukhábád, by which means the coin which may hereafter be struck in the Benares mint will be much improved in point of fabrication and appearance.

The same letter states that “the quantity of gold which has been coined in the Beuares mint since 1782 only amounted to 121,949 mohars or about 1,768,260 rupees, whilst, during the same period, the silver coinage has amounted to rupees 51,631,000, and it is accordingly proposed by the Board of Commissiouers that the Benares mint shall not be open for the coinage of gold bullion in future.”

A Regulation for the future management of the Benares mint, (the date\* of which is not given in the records), has, among its clauses, the following:—

**Benares.**  
 Preamble. Whereas it has been deemed advisable to continue the mint at Benares, and to assimilate the internal management of it to the rules already in foree in the Miuts of Calcutta and Farrukhábád, the following rules have been enacted to be in force from their promulgation:—

I. The silver coin now current in the Benares province under the denomination of the machhlídár rupee, commonly called the Benares rupee, shall continue to be the established coin of the province, and shall be received as such in all public and private transactions.

II. The Benares rupee is to continue of the following weight, and half and quarter rupees are to be coined of the same standard and proportionate weight:—

|             |     |     |     |         |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Troy grains | ... | ... | ... | 175     |
| Pure silver | ... | ... | ... | 168·875 |
| Alloy ...   | ... | ... | ... | 6·125   |

III. The Benares rupee shall hereafter be struck of the same size and form as the 19th san rupee struck in the mint of Calcutta, and shall bear the same impression as is now in use;

IV. The half and quarter rupee shall be proportionately less than the rupee, and shall have the same impression as the rupee;

V. The edges shall be milled, and the dies (to be cut in the Calcutta mint) shall be made of the same size as the coin, so that the whole impression may appear;

VI. The mint master at Calcutta shall cause a privato mark to be put upon all the dies which may be prepared for the Benares mint.

1812. In 1812 the Licutenant-Governor of Java asked that a supply of copper coinage might be sent from Bengal to Batavia, as the want of a small currency was felt throughout the colony. The coinage, it was suggested, should consist of 165 coins to one Dutch pound weight, and the device be either the figure of a buffalo or elephant, and on the reverse, JAVA and the date.

\* It was probably 1810, as it refers to “From and after the first day of 1811.”

In April, 1812, the Madras mint Committee recommended that, in conformity with the orders of the Court of directors, the coinage of half and quarter pagodas and of pie, two, and single fánams be discontinued, and that the coinage of rupees, half, quarter, and eighth rupees be commenced; and that the half and quarter pagodas and five fánam pieces be re-coined into rupees as fast as possible, leaving the double and single fánams to remain in circulation until the fractions of the rupee were fully established.

1813. In 1813 it was pointed out that, since the "tirsoolee pisa" was originally established as the copper currency of Benares, no measures had been adopted to renew it, and the inscription had, by process of time, become more or less indistinct, and the shroffs had reduced the value of pie in which the trisúl was defective by reducing it 11 per cent. in current value for no other reason than the defectiveness of the trisúl."

**Benares.**

By a Resolution dated 7th August, 1813, the Governor-General, anticipating great convenience and advantage from the establishment of an uniform coinage throughout the ceded and conquered provinces, including the districts dependent on Delhi, resolved that the coinage to be carried on henceforth at the Delhi mint be confined to new Farrukhábád rupees of the weight and standard of the coin issued from the Farrukhábád mint, and bearing the same inscription. The Governor-General also expressed his opinion that there could be no objection to coining at the Delhi mint a limited number of rupees bearing the name and title of his present Majesty, Akbar Sháh, these rupees being only intended to be presented to His Majesty on the anniversary of his accession for the purpose of being distributed as complimentary presents.

In 1813 a Regulation for establishing a copper coinage in the Province of Benares was passed, among the clauses of which were the following:—

**Benares.**

I. A copper coin weighing 100 grains troy, and consisting of pure copper, shall be established in the province of Benares (the coin to be fabricated at the Benares mint);

II. The form, size, and impression of the copper coin shall correspond with those prescribed by Sect. XII, Reg. II, 1803, for the Benares rupee, but the edges shall not be milled or have any mark or impression.

In November, 1813, the Court of Directors expressed their opinion that the coinage for the Bombay Presidency should be executed in the Calcutta mint, and

**Bombay.**

forwarded a number of coins as showing their views with respect to manner in which the coinage should be executed.

1816. In September, 1816, the Board of Commissioners, Farrukhábád, pointed out that for some time only a small quantity of silver had been brought to the mint by individuals for coinage, and suggested the expediency of employing the establishment in the coinage of copper piece on account of Government. The following draft Resolution was submitted by the Commissioners :—

I. That Sect. XLIII, Reg. XLV, 1803, prescribing a specified weight for the copper piece to be struck at Farrukhábád be rescinded

II. That such copper coin be struck at Farrukhábád, weighing 200 grains troy for the whole, or double piece, and 100 grains troy for the half or single piece;

III. That such copper coin shall be issued from the mint at the rate of 32 whole and 64 half piece for each rupee.

In November, 1816, the Mauritius Government wrote to the Governor General that “this Colony is subject to considerable inconvenience and difficulties, especially since the great fire, from the want of a small money for the ordinary daily transactions of common life. It would, therefore, be most desirable to obtain from the mint of the Supreme Government a coinage for the use of this land. A decimal division of the Spanish Dollar, which coin is here equivalent to two sikka rupees, would be the most convenient money for accounts. The books of the merchants and traders being kept in livres, ten of which are in this Colony equal to the Spanish Dollar, it would be desirable that each of the silver coins should be marked ONE LIVRE.”

**Mauritius.**  
By Regulation XXV, 1817, it was enacted that:—

**Bengal.**  
I. The copper piece struck at the Calcutta mint shall be of pure copper, and of the weight of 100 grains troy;

II. The inscription shall be on one side “one pie sikka” in Bangálí, Persian, and Nágari, and the date on the obverse.

III. That the piece shall be issued from the mint and public treasuries at the rate of 64 to 1 sikka rupee....., and be legal tender at the rate of 64 to a rupee of the local currency throughout the provinces subject to the Presidency of Fort William.

IV. The piece struck at the mints of Benares and Farrukhábád, agreeably to the provisions of Regulation X, 1809, Reg. VII, 1814, and Reg. XXI, 1816, shall be also considered as circulating equally

**Benares.**

**Farrukhábád.**

with the pice of Calcutta coinage throughout the above-mentioned provinces, and shall in like manner, be received as legal tender in payment of the fractional parts of a rupee of the local currency at the rate of 64 pice for each rupee.

**Farrukhábád.**

By Regulation XXVI, 1817, it was enacted that:—

I. Whereas it may from time to time be found expedient to coin rupees of the weight and standard of the Farrukhábád rupee at the mints of Calcutta or Benares, it has seemed advisable to rescind so much of section II of Reg. XLV, 1803, as tends to limit the coinage of Farrukhábád rupees to the mint of Farrukhábád, and to direct that the following enactment be henceforth in force:—

II. The silver coin denominated the Farrukhábád rupee, and of the weight and standard prescribed by section II of Reg. III, 1806, struck at the mints of Calcutta, Farrukhábád, or Benares, or at any other mint established by order of the Governor General in Council, is hereby declared to be the established and legal silver coin in the ceded and conquered provinces.

In 1817 the weight of the pice struck in the Calcutta mint was fixed at 100 grains, and they bore the inscription “one pie sikka.”

**Calcutta.**

1818. In June, 1818, the Vice-President in Council expressed his concurrence with the Resident at Delhi as to the inexpediency of maintaining the Delhi

**Delhi.**

mint, and the Resident was accordingly directed to discontinue its operations, still causing, however, such a number of coins to be struck as might be necessary for the purpose of satisfying the feelings of the king.

In August, 1818, the Calcutta Mint Master submitted for the consideration of Government specimen coins of the weight and standard of the proposed new cur-

**General.**

rency, and stated that, as the difference in size and weight of the new coins might not be considered sufficient to enable all persons to at once distinguish them from the old ones, he had thought it expedient to affix such further distinctive marks as would be obvious to the most ordinary observer. The specimens, which were distinguished from the existing currency by a raised rim and perpendicular milling, were adopted as the pattern for the new coinage.

In 1818 the Calcutta Mint Committee stated that they were not aware of any objection to the inscription on the rupee undergoing an alteration, and that it would be more consistent with the dignity of the British Government of India to authorise its own currencies by its own

peculiar stamp and impression; and suggested that, if any alteration was made, no date should be inserted, as an arbitrary batta on coins of various issues would thus be obviated without having recourse to any fictitious inscription.

**Benares, Farrukhábád.** 1819. By Regulation XI, 1819, it was enacted that:—

1. The coinage of the Benares rupee shall be discontinued;

II. The Farrukhábád rupee shall be considered the legal currency of the province of Benares;

III. The Farrukhábád rupee shall be a legal tender in all the territories under the Bengal Government, with the exception of Bengal, Bihár, and Orissa, whether struck at the mints of Calcutta, Benares, or Farrukhábád, or any other mint that may be hereafter established within the aforesaid limits under the authority of the British Government;

IV. The Farrukhábád rupee to be struck at any of the mints before mentioned, shall be of the value of the present Farrukhábád rupee, and of the standard of the present Calcutta rupee, *viz.* :

|             |           |     |     |         |
|-------------|-----------|-----|-----|---------|
| Weight      | Troy grs. | ... | ... | 180·234 |
| Pure silver | „         | ... | ... | 165·215 |
| Alloy       | „         | ... | ... | 15·019  |

In addition to the substitution of the new Farrukhábád rupee, the Mint Committee recommended the temporary establishment of mints at Ajmere and Ságár, to convert the existing currencies into the new coin. The Ságár mint was at that time issuing rupees called “Saugor or Balashaie.” The Government expressed their opinion that the recommendation of the Committee was judicious. I can find no further reference to the Ajmere mint in the records.

**Bombay.** 1821. The Bombay coinage consisted in 1821 of the following:—

|         |                    | ... | ... | Troy grs. |
|---------|--------------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| Gold.   | Mohar              | ... | ... | ... 180   |
| „       | Panchia (5 rupees) | ... | ... | ... 60    |
| „       | Rupee              | ... | ... | ... 12    |
| Silver. | Rupee              | ... | ... | ... 180   |
| „       | Half Rupee         | ... | ... | ... 90    |
| „       | Quarter „          | ... | ... | ... 45    |
| „       | Eighth „           | ... | ... | ... 22½   |
| Copper. | Anna               | ... | ... | ... 400   |
| „       | Half Anna          | ... | ... | ... 200   |
| „       | Quarter „          | ... | ... | ... 100   |
| „       | Pice               | ... | ... | ... 33·33 |



In this year the Mauritius Government, being put to inconvenience by the use of paper money for the small change of the colony, asked that the Calcutta mint might coin for them small tokens to the value of 100,000 sikka rupces. The wish of the Mauritius Government was acceded to.

1824. In 1824 an application was made by the Resident at Singapore for a supply of small coins to be struck at the Calcutta mint for the use of that settlement. In the Resident's letter it is stated that the small money in circulation throughout the Malay countries consisted of copper Dutch duyt and pice of Prince of Wales' island, the brass coin of China, and of silver Dutch 2, 6, and 9 silver (stiver?, pieces, and the guilder or florin commonly called by the natives the rupee. The most universally used coins were the duyt and two stiver pice. The duyt was the real money of the most remote and unfrequented parts of Sumatra and Borneo, and the two stiver pice was the true circulating medium of the Celebes, the Spanish dollar being only used in foreign commercial transactions. It was suggested that the duyt and two silver pice should be struck with the same inscriptions, *viz.* the value in the English, Chinese, Malay and Bugies languages, and on the reverse the crest of the East India Company without the supporters, and with the date and motto of the Company beneath.

By Regulation II, 1824, it was decided that the Farrukhabád rupees, to be coined at the Ságar mint of 180 grains, 165 fine and 15 alloy, should be the legal currency of Ságar and territories on the Narmadá (Nerbudda).

A letter from the Bombay Mint Committee, dated 27th September, 1824, refers to a communication received from the Supreme Government, desiring that immediate steps be taken for the coinage of a new rupee of the Madras standard, and asking for their opinion on the measures to be adopted for a general reform of the currency. The Committee suggested, with reference to the first point, that a proclamation should be issued, announcing the alteration of the standard, and declaring the new rupee current at par with the old. They also recommended the division of the anna into sixteen instead of twelve pice, so that the copper currency would consist of:—

|             | Troy grs. |     |         |
|-------------|-----------|-----|---------|
| Anna        | ...       | ... | ... 400 |
| Half Anna   | ...       | ... | ... 200 |
| Quarter „   | ...       | ... | ... 200 |
| Double Pice | ...       | ... | ... 50  |
| Single „    | ...       | ... | ... 25  |

A draft proclamation was submitted by the Committee, announcing the alteration of the mint standard, the sanction of which by the Supreme Government is not recorded in the Records.

1825. In 1825 various suggestions for a change of impression on the currency were made, and the following

**General.**

extract is from an able report by Lieutenant Forbes, who was superintending the construction of the new Calcutta mint, and who, before proceeding to England in 1820, had been instructed by the Bengal Government to bring the subject of the device for the coin to the notice of the Court of Directors.

“It is observed,” Lieutenant Forbes wrote, “that the impression chosen by the king of Oudh for his new currency shows that in reality no prejudice exists against the representation of animals on coins. The common practice of putting Coats-of-Arms on coins having led to the adoption of those of the Hon. Company as a device for some of their copper coins executed in England, the propriety of employing them on the money to be struck for the general circulation of India came first to be considered. From the minuteness of the scale to which they must be reduced on a coin, it was found that the Royal Arms situated in the upper left quarter of the Company’s shield became undecipherable, and that, as its plain was otherwise blank, the total effect of the piece was feeble and unmeaning. With the intention of enriching the design, two large lions (the supporters), and a little one (the crest), were introduced. The portion of surface occupied by such a number of animals in the rampant and strange attitudes adopted in heraldry, now left so little space for the shield that the Royal Arms, diminished to a peg, became utterly undistinguishable. The unanimous opinion of artists that such a device would appear inelegant and barbarous was strikingly confirmed by the specimens produced on the money executed at Soho for transmission to Penang and the islands to the eastward. Although some of the dies were engraved by artists of considerable talent, no effort of skill or ingenuity could prevent the little odd lion of the crest from being mistaken for a monkey, nor obviate the misapprehension of common observers in conceiving the figures used as supporters to be ill-designed cats. A praiseworthy attempt to correct such serious defects by the introduction of lions modelled from life brought the question of the Arms to its final issue. It then appeared that the animals with which heraldry is conversant under the denomination of lions are not “real lions,” and that correct similitudes of the animal himself, placed in the splay-footed position, required as supporters, had a ludicrous effect.

“I was induced to propose the simple emblem of the Company, a

a solitary lion, as a device for the Indian coins. As an appropriate type of sovereignty, and as an emblem known and respected wherever British rule has been extended, I suggested that the ease, dignity, and strength which he so nobly personified on some of the coins of ancient Greece would be still more consistent and characteristic when applied to India. Moreover, I suggested that he might be completely localised by the ever-flourishing Palm, an Asiatic though ancient tasteful emblem of perpetuity.

“I have to solicit the attention of the Committee to a model of this device executed after a drawing by Flaxman.”

It was agreed that this device was well adapted for one face of the new coin, and suggested that either the head of the King (George IV), or the designation of the coin within a wreath, should be placed on the other face.

1826. In 1826 the Collector of Delhi expressed his opinion that a proposal to establish a mint for copper coinage at Delhi would be productive of good to the people, and a check to the impositions practised by the shroffs, whose source of livelihood consisted in the exaction of discount on the various current copper coins.

**Delhi.**

1823–27. A volume of the records, 1823–27, is devoted to details connected with the construction of the new Calcutta mint.

**Calcutta.**

In a report on the regulations for the conduct of the coinage subsequently to its transfer to the new Calcutta mint it is recorded that:—

I. It was the intention of the Hon. Court that the scale of the new mint machinery and establishment should be such as would permanently enable it to supply two-thirds of the coin required for the circulation of India;

II. It was their design that the remaining third should be supplied by similar apparatus of half the power to be sent to Bombay;

III. The new Calcutta mint would immediately or eventually have to perform the work of the Calcutta mint, and of the mints of Benares, Farrukhábád, and Ságár;

IV. The Hon. Court held in view that the Calcutta and Bombay mints would, at any period found convenient, afford the means of equalising the coins, and of rendering uniform the coinages of India.

1827. In a letter dated 28th August, 1827, the Mint Master of the “new mint,” Bombay, expressed his opinion that the Bombay division into rupees, quarters, and reas was preferable to the rupees, annas, and pic of the other side of India, and that the division of the gold mohur into fifteen parts was decidedly superior to the Calcutta division into sixteen.

**Bombay.**

1829. In 1829 it was suggested that the new Calcutta mint might be usefully employed in coining spelter money, which would be very useful to the poorer classes as a substitute for cowries, and which might be called the quarter or páo pice.

**Delhi.** The question of the re-establishment of the Delhi mint for the coinage of pice only was re-opened.

1830. In a letter dated 2nd February, 1830, the Calcutta Mint Committee was informed that the Governor General authorised the discontinuance of the establishment of the Benares mint, and the disposal of the machinery, apparatus, and other property of that mint.

**Benares.** In May, 1830, a letter was submitted by the Calcutta Mint Committee on the subject of the impression of the new coinage, and reiterating their opinion that the British Indian currencies should bear impressions characterising the authority by which they were issued either in the form of a head, emblem, or coat-of-arms. The Committee, in the same letter, expressed their opinion that, until this question was settled by the Court of Directors, the Bombay coinage should continue to bear the same impression as it did at present. In a further letter, submitting specimens of two Franc pieces, the Committee stated that the French milling could not be advantageously introduced with the existing milling machinery, and recommending that a plain milling should be adopted.

**General.** In August, 1830, the Calcutta Mint Committee submitted specimens of copper pice with a request that Government would sanction their coinage, as they seemed to be preferable to those in circulation at that time.

**Calcutta.** In December of the same year the Calcutta Mint Master suggested that a copper coinage might with advantage be carried out at the new mint for the Madras Presidency and the settlements to the eastward (Singapore, etc.) in which latter the demand for copper coin was at that time very urgent.

1831. A letter dated 11th January, 1831, stated that it had been resolved to abolish the mint at Ságár.

**Ságár.** By an order dated 25th February, 1831, it was notified that "an alteration in the Calcutta sikka and Farrukhábád rupees was authorised by the Governor General in Council under date 13th July last, and that these currencies will in future be struck at the Calcutta mint with a plain flat milling only."

In August, 1831, the Calcutta Mint Committee submitted the following draft of a Regulation for legalising the circulation of the sub-divisions in the copper currency authorised to be coined by Government :—

**Bengal.**

I. That, besides the copper pice now current, which shall remain unchanged, there shall be coined a copper half-anna picee, and a copper pie or twelfth of an anna ;

II. The copper half anna pie shall weigh twice the weight of the present pice, or 200 grains troy, and shall bear on one face the legend "Half anna" in Persian, and Nagárí, and on the other the same in English and Bangáí. The exchangeable value of the coin shall be two for one anna, or one for two pice ;

III. The twelfth of an anna picee on one pie shall weigh troy grains 33·333, and shall bear on one face the legend "One pái" in Persian and Nágarí, and the same on the other in English and Bangáí. The exchangeable value of the coin shall be twelve for one anna or three for one pice.

IV. These coins shall be current at the above rates in all the provinces under the Bengal Presidency.

1833. In a letter from the Assay Master of the Calcutta mint (Mr. Prinsep) in April, 1833, some general information is given with reference to rupee

**Rupee coinage.**

coinage. "It has ever," he says, "been the expressed desire of the Hon. Court of Directors to equalise the coin of the whole of the Indian possessions both in weight and standard. In this they have but followed the laudable practice of the Muhammadan Governments of India, which, while they arrogated to themselves the prerogative of coining, appear to have maintained with care and good faith the weight and purity of the circulating medium until the Empire was distracted with internal commotions, and the Viceroys of the Crown and tributary states assumed to themselves the control of the various mints, reserving a mere nominal subjection to the sovereign in the legend impressed upon their coin.

"The silver rupee was introduced, according to Abúl-fazl, by Sher Sháh, who usurped the throne of Delhi from Humáyún in 1542. It had a weight of  $11\frac{1}{4}$  máshás, which, at the rate of  $15\frac{1}{2}$  grains per máshá, is equal to 174·4 grains of pure silver. This standard was adopted by Akbar, and accordingly we find coins of his reign weighing from 170 to 174 grains.

"The Murshidábád rupee was adopted for the coinage of the Company's súbah of Bengal, and has accordingly remained unchanged as the present sikka rupee.

“The Súrát rupee was also adopted as the currency of the Bombay Presidency under the treaty with the Nawáb of Súrát, who retained the privilege of coining; but in 1800 its pure contents were found to have sunk to 164·79 grains, when, to prevent further depreciation, the Government assumed charge of the mint, and the rupee was then fixed at the later valuation of 164·7 grains pure.

“The Delhi rupee struck at the Fathgarh mint by the Vizier of Oudh, in like manner, gradually diminished to 165·2 grains pure, when, by cession of the Duáb to the English, it was there arrested, and by a Regulation of 1806, was assumed as the standard currency of the Western Provinces. It was afterwards introduced into the Benares Provinces, where, (that mint having come earlier into our possession), the depreciation of the rupee has not reached the same extent: pure contents 169·2.

“The Aroot rupee in 1788, according to the assay tables, still retained 170 grains of pure silver. When adopted, however, as the standard rupee of the Madras Presidency, it had fallen to 165 grains, and there of course it has since remained.

“The alteration of the standard to  $\frac{3}{12}$  of alloy in 1818 did not affect the proportion of pure metal, but the facility of equalising the three coins (Bombay, Madras, Farrukhábád) had been observed both in England and India; and, when the Ságár mint was established in 1825, it was ordered to coin new Farrukhábád rupees of 180 grains weight, the same as the standard of Madras, or containing 165 grains pure. The Bombay mint was ordered to assimilate its coin to the same in 1829. The Benares rupee alone continued to coin Farrukhábáds of 180·234 grains until its abolition in 1829; and the Calcutta mint has since coined them of the same weight, although a good opportunity was afforded by the promulgation of the new system in Bombay to have effected a simultaneous reform here.”

In the letter under notice Mr. Prinsep recommended (and Government saw the expediency of adopting the recommendation)<sup>1</sup> that:—

I. The weight of the Farrukhábád rupee struck at the Calcutta mint be 180 grains troy instead of 180·234 grains; and that the weight of the Calcutta sikka rupee be 192 grains instead of 191·916, corresponding alterations being made in the half and quarter rupee.

II. The sikka weight (contra-distinguished to the sikka rupee) be equalised with the weight of the Farrukhábád rupee.

In October, 1833, Mr. Prinsep recommended that the armorial bearings impressed on both the Bombay and Madras copper coins, should be immediately

**Calcutta.**

<sup>1</sup> Reg. VII, 1893. See Thurston, *op. cit.*

adopted at Calcutta and that on the reverse should be the value in English, Nágari, and Persian, enclosed in a wreath. "The determination of this point," Mr. Prinsep said, "is the more urgent as it is now in contemplation to issue a large copper coin to replace the tirsoolce pice."

1834. In April, 1834, the following recommendations were submitted for the consideration of Government:—

**General.**

I. That there should be a common device for the coins of the three Presidencies ;

II. That this should differ on the three metals, so as to fully distinguish them from one another, and prevent fraud and imposition by gilding or silvering ;

III. That the device should be pictorial and essentially English, as, among other reasons, the adoption of such a device would entitle the Government to claim from the Colonial Governments of the Crown a recognition of the coin of India as a national money entitled to circulate at its intrinsic value in all the possessions of the Crown. The rupee in its present form is not so considered beyond the limits of the Company's authority.

IV. That the gold mohar of Bengal should in future be equalised with that of Bombay and Madras ;

V. That the coinage of the sikka rupee should be discontinued from the commencement of the new Charter, so as to prevent all confusion from the two coins being permitted to circulate together.

A specimen coin, executed by a native named Kásínáth, was submitted with the letter. The obverse bore a facsimile of the king's head on the English Sovereign, and the legend GULIELMUS, IIII. D. G. BRITANNIARUM, REX. F. D., and the reverse a laurel wreath with ONE RUPEE. 1834. in the centre, and the same in Persian, Bangáli, and Nágari on the margin. This device, with the substitution of MOHUR, was recommended for the gold coinage. Mr. Prinsep had already suggested that the copper coins should bear on the obverse the Company's Arms, and on the reverse a wreath with the designation of the coins in lieu of the word "adil" of Bombay or "ck falús panch kás ast" of Madras. The recommendations of the Committee were referred to the Court of Directors.

Various designs for the new coinage by Mr. Prinseps were also submitted, *viz* :—

- I. Britannia from the English penny ;
- II. A lion from an ancient Greek coin ;
- III. An elephant (from the Ceylon coin) ;
- IV. A ship ;

V. A British senator, between a Hindu and Mahomedan, presenting the charter ;

VI. An emblematical figure of Justice and Plenty ;

VII. Typical figures of Britannia and India ;

VIII. The Pípal tree (*Ficus Indica*) from the seal of the Royal Asiatic Society of London.

1835. Early in 1835 engravings were prepared of the head of the king with the simple legend WILLIAM, III.

**General.** KING, instead of the titles in Latin, and an impression in pure gold of the King's head with the lion as the reverse (proposed as a double mohur) was submitted.

In April, 1835, the Calcutta Mint Committee was informed that the rupee having on one side the inscription EAST INDIA COMPANY, with the nominal value of the coin in English, Persian, and Nágari, and the representation of a lotus flower and myrtle wreath had been approved by the Governor General as the model for the future coinage of the rupee. The Committee were requested to communicate with the Madras, Bombay, and Ságar mints with the view of effecting a change in the rupee currency throughout British India with all convenient expedition. In a subsequent letter, however, it was resolved that on the obverse of the new silver coinage the title of the king should be simply WILLIAM, III. KING, and that on the reverse should be engraved the denomination of value in English and Persian only.

In June, 1835, it was resolved by the Governor General to abolish the Madras mint in conformity to the orders of the Court of Directors, and the Madras Government was desired to forward to Calcutta or Bombay such parts of the mint machinery as, if publicly sold, might be employed in fabricating coins.

**Madras.**

In September of the same year, it was resolved that the Ságar mint should be abolished, as it was no longer considered necessary for supplying coin of the new legal currency with reference to the capability of the Calcutta and Bombay mints for the whole coinage of India.

**Ságar.**

In October the Calcutta Mint Committee submitted specimens of a device which they thought suitable for the copper coinage of Bengal, *i. e.*, on the obverse the Company's Arms as on the piece of Bombay and Madras, and on the reverse the denomination of the coin in English and Persian enclosed in a wreath, and the title of the Hon'ble Company on the margin in correspondence with the device of the new rupee. This device was adopted.

**Bengal.**



A letter from the Government, dated 25th November 1835, states that "under the circumstances represented, **General.** from which it appears that it would lead to considerable further delay to prepare and execute a new device for the gold coin proposed to be issued (with the name of the coin in English within a wreath instead of the lion,) whereas the coinage of double mohurs can be immediately commenced if the die cut with the device according to the design of Flaxman be adopted, the Governor General has been induced to waive his objection to the representation of an animal upon the gold coin of India, and to approve the adoption of this device."

The details of the new coinage were finally laid down by Acts XVII and XXII 1835.

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*Græco-Roman Influence on the Civilization of Ancient India. Supplementary Note.*—By VINCENT ARTHUR SMITH, M. R. A. S., *Indian Civil Service.*

Sir Alexander Cunningham has favoured me with communications which enable me to make certain corrections in and additions to my second paper on *Græco-Roman Influence on the Civilization of Ancient India*, published in the *Journal of this Society* for 1892<sup>1</sup>.

Concerning the short record dated in the year 68, and numbered II. by M. Senart, I remarked (*page 56 of my paper*):—"It is not known to what object it was attached, but doubtless it was a sculpture of some sort." M. Senart's words are (*page 21 of his paper*):—"Le lieu d'origine de cette courte inscription ne m'est pas connu. Il est probable que, comme presque tous les monuments réunis au musée de Lahore, elle vient du pays des Yusufzais, sur la rive gauche du fleuve de Caboul, de Jamalgarhi, de Takht i Bahi, ou des environs.

Les caractères occupent une longueur de 97 centimètres; on peut en estimer à 3 centimètres et demi la hauteur moyenne. La hauteur de la pierre est de 10 centimètres. Ignorant jusqu'à sa provenance, nous n'avons bien entendu aucun renseignement sur l'objet qu'elle accompagnait primitivement."

Sir A. Cunningham, in a letter dated 17th June, 1892, clears up all doubts as to the place from which the inscription came, and proves that I was mistaken in guessing that it had been directly attached to a sculpture of some sort.

<sup>1</sup> See J. A. S. B. Vol. LXI, Part I for 1892, p. 50 Ed.